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For Immediate Release

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ONE MEMBER OF ASYLUM FRAUD CONSPIRACY PLEADS GUILTY

PHILADELPHIA - Nelly Katsman, 41, of Holland, PA, today admitted her role in an asylum fraud scheme, announced Acting United States Attorney Laurie Magid. Katsman pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy, and one count of visa/asylum fraud. She was charged with five other defendants, including alleged scheme leader David Lynn, in July. The business that Lynn ran is alleged to have filed at least 380 bogus asylum applications for clients, between January 2003 and March 2007, charging an average of \$8,000 for an application.

Katsman faces a guideline sentencing range of 15 to 21 months in prison, and a \$500,000 fine. Sentencing is scheduled for December 17, 2008.

The case was investigated by the Department of Homeland Security Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the United States Department of Labor Office of Inspector General's Office of Labor Racketeering and Fraud, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Inspector General for Housing and Urban Development; with support from the Citizenship and Immigration Services Office of Fraud Detection and National Security, Department of State Diplomatic Security Services, the Northampton Township Police Department, and the Upper Southampton Township police.

It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Terri A. Marinari.

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